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Control: 5079

Rec'd:

September 12, 1952 12:13 p.m.

Action NBA

FROM: Beirut

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OLI CIA 515, September 12, 2 p.m.

To: Secretary of State

DEPT PASS CAIRO. SENT DEPT 515, RPTD INFO CAIRO 58, DAMASCUS 54.

In view of favorable circumstances (LEGTEL 505, Sept 12) subject of : Jerusalem Mufti Husseini's activities was raised with Grand Mufti Allaya of Lebanon yesterday (DEPTEL 465, Sept 9)

It was apparent that while basic courtesies are exchanged Allays wastes no (rpt no) love on Husseini. They do visit each other as occasion requires.

Allaya was told: (a) While he and others have been giving constructive attention on such problems as pilgrims and refugees, Husseini is neutralizing much of their good work by stirring up trouble; (b) There are reports that Husseini is even prevailing on leaders as Shishikli to thwart help to unfortunate refugees, and (c) Embassy wid appreciate whatever he might be able to do to dissuade Husseini from unconstructive activities.

Allaya replied: (a) Husseini is virtually slone and his funds are low (Allaya has recently refused to come to his financial rescue); (b) Husseini's influence has waned; and (c) we shid not (rpt not) be too worried about him.

Present conditions being what they are, it is not (rpt not) unlikely suggestion dropped to Allaya may bear some fruits. Husseini, however, is such an inveterate troublemaker, there is little any human can do to neutralize his activities, let alone convert him.

Incidentally, Husseini is leaving Beirut today for one week's sojourn Egypt, motive unknown.

MINOR

TT:NLH

Note: Relayed to Catro 9/12/52, 12:30 p.m. JP

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